

THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*Office of Health Care Access*

**The ACHIEVE Project**

---

**ACHIEVE** is a three year grant initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. OHCA is the lead agency for this three- year initiative that spans from February 1999 to February 2002. The objectives of ACHIEVE are to measure the success of efforts to expand access to health insurance coverage and promote more efficient health care purchasing.

The ACHIEVE purchasing initiative has been developed to improve State of Connecticut health care quality, cost and access. By emphasizing value-based purchasing and vendor performance management, ACHIEVE will help the State to solidify its role as a major public purchaser by adopting a new approach to buying health care.

Since its inception, the ACHIEVE project has created new partnerships among State health purchasing agencies and their staff.

The key health purchaser agencies are:

The Department of Social Services	HUSKY A & B Health Plans
The Office of the State Comptroller	State Employee and Retiree Health Benefits
The Department of Administrative Services	Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits
Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement Board	Retired Teachers' Health Benefits

These partnerships are designed to encourage and stimulate a competitive marketplace and to create stability and continuity in data systems, contract requirements and pricing. This will in turn enable each agency to more effectively leverage its health care purchasing power and to enhance access to and quality of State-purchased health care.

**What is the ACHIEVE Project striving to accomplish?**

**ACHIEVE expects to develop and implement a purchasing strategy that will hold the health plans that the State contracts with accountable for cost, quality and access.** ACHIEVE project team members are actively working to help each purchaser agency identify solutions to their respective health purchasing challenges. The purpose of the initiative is to leverage the purchasing power of the state to:

- Achieve the most cost-competitive fees, rates and financial arrangements for each population for whom the state purchases health care coverage.
- Create purchasing efficiencies that minimize administrative burdens for both the State and its vendors.
- Establish a performance-based foundation for how the State will interact with and hold accountable its health care benefit vendors for high quality care, service and performance.

**For more information on the ACHIEVE Project, please contact Marybeth Reinhardt, ACHIEVE Project Director at (860) 418-7014.**